(e) The freight earnings upto the first quarter of the financial year *i.e.* upto June, 2006 (approximate) have increased by 14.08% as compared to the corresponding period of the previous financial year (approximate).

Feasibility report on new link from Nagapattinam to Tithruthuraipundi

2379. SHRIMIATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sourthern Railway had sent a feasibility report on the new links from Nagapattinum to Tithruthuraipundi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry is considering to extend the said new railway line up to Velankanni; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The work of connectivity to Velankanni from Nagapattinam has already been taken up as part of Thanjavur-Tiruvarur-Nagore gauge conversion project.

Doubling of Chengalpattu-Villupuram rail line

2380. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways had cleared doubling of the Chengalputtu-Villupuram section;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the abvoe said proposal is now with the Planning Commission;

(c) if so, the present status of the said proposal;

(d) whether the Railways is also considering to double the Chengalpattu-Tuticorin section in view of increasing passenger traffic; and